Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 ICA-20 PM-05 SS-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00 SP-02 CEQ-01 SAS-02 /144 W

-----048510 022056Z/62

R 311700Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8850

INFO USDOE WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 6864

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BR, MNUC

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ISSUE - EXCHANGE OF NOTES SCHEDULED BETWEEN BRAZIL

AND URENCO PARTNERS

REF: BRASILIA 4647

1. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED FOR 1 SEPTEMBER A CEREMONIAL EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOB AND THE THREE GOVERNMENTS MAKING UP THE URENCO PARTNERSHIP. THE NOTES WILL FORMALIZE THE BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS OF THE COMPROMISE WHICH ENDED THE IMPASSE ON URENCO FUEL SUPPLY TO BRAZIL (REFTEL). AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE GOB HAS OBTAINED CONCESSIONS WHICH RAISE THE STATUS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FUEL SUPPLY AGREEMENT FROM THAT OF A PURELY COMMERCIAL CONTRACT TO THAT OF A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, WITH THE URENCO GOVERNMENTS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMERCIAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, NUCLEBRAS, AND URENCO.

- 2. THE GOB ALSO OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF THE URENCO PARTNERS TO ITS PROPOSAL THAT IN THE EVENT AN IAEA PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME IS NOT AGREED TO IN ADVANCE OF BRAZILIAN PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION, THE AD HOC AGREEMENT ON PLUTONIUM STORAGE BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE URENCO PARTNERS WHICH WILL THEN BE REQUIRED WILL ALSO BE APPLIED TO ALL OTHER URENCO CUSTOMERS. IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS APPARENT CONCESSION TO BRAZILIAN SENSITIVITY ABOUT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT, THE GOB WILL COMMIT ITSELF TO ACTIVELY WORK FOR ADOPTION OF AN IAEA PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME.
- 3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON 1 SEPTEMBER IN BRASILIA WILL BE FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES AMONG THE URENCO PARTNERS IN BONN IN WHICH THE BRITISH AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS EACH AGREE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING THE FRG WITH THE ENRICHED UTANIUM NECESSARY FOR THE BRAZILIAN PROGRAM, AND THE FRG AGREES TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING THE FUEL TO THE GOB. THE INTENT OF THIS EXCHANGE APPEARS TO BE TO EMPHASISE THE RESPONSIBILITIES ASSUMED BY THE URENCO GOVERNMENTS AND TO DOCUMENT THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH AS ALTERNATE OR SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPLIERS OF BRAZILIAN ENRICHED URANIUM NEEDS WITHIN URENCO.
- 4. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE GOB HAD BEEN UNHAPPY OVER THE DELAY OF THE URENCO GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONDING TO A GOB COUNTER-PROPOSAL UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THE TEXTS OF THE NOTES. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE URENCO GOVERNMENTS IN BRASILIA ATRIBUTED THE DELAYS TO THE EUROPEAN SUMMER VACATION PERIOD, BUT THE 30 AUGUST PRESS ACCOUNTS ANNOUNCING AGREEMENT ON THE NOTES TO BE EXCHANGED ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE URENCO GOVERNMENTS HAD ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN ACCEPTING THE TEXTS WHICH THE GOB HAD COUNTER-PROPOSED. THE PRESS SPECULATED ABOUT AN APPARENT URGENT DESIRE OF THE GOB TO CONCLUDE THE DISCUSSIONS BEFORE THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT RETURNED FROM ITS SUMMER VACATION, BUT REPORTED THAT IN THE END THE TEXTS COUNTER-PROPOSED BY THE GOB HAD BEEN ACCEPTED WITH ONLY SEMANTIC CHANGES.

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Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, URANIUM, NUCLEAR FUELS

Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL06864
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780360-0202 Format: TEL

From: BRASILIA USIAEA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978081/aaaaaajh.tel

Line Count: 107 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: beab8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 BRASILIA 4647

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 16 may 2005 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1536031 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NUCLEAR ISSUE - EXCHANGE OF NOTES SCHEDULED BETWEEN BRAZIL AND URENCO PARTNERS

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, BR, URENCO

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/beab8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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